

**PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
ROOM 208
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT**

Members Present: Councilman Carl R. Chisem
Councilman James B. Streeto
Councilman Thomas Serra
Councilwoman Sandra Russo-Driska

Staff Present: William Russo, Director of Public Works
Christopher M. Holden, P.E., Deputy Director of Public Works

Absent: Councilman David Bauer

Chair Chisem opened the Public Works & Facilities Commission meeting at 7:00 P.M. Chair Chisem requested a motion to approve the minutes dated September 9, 2015. Motion to approve the minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Councilman Serra decided to speak on behalf of the public with regards to Councilman Streeto leaving the commission. He wanted to wish him the best of luck in the future and mentioned that his humor and comic relief will be missed. Councilman Streeto replied that it has been a real pleasure working with the commission.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Director Russo indicated that no correspondence was received to present to the commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Tree Warden's Association Fall Workshop – One of the councilmen made a motion for the payment to be processed for the workshop, predicated on the commission's vote and the requirement by state statute for the C.E.U.'s to be maintained for the job description. Director Russo stated that Rick Romano is the Deputy Tree Warden and that the class for the fall workshop became available after the last Finance & Government meeting. Since Finance & Government's approval is needed for these functions, he is asking permission from the commission, especially Councilman Serra being the Chair of Finance & Government, to send Rick to class for his credits. Motion to approve the payment was seconded and approved unanimously.
- b. Building Permit Refunds –
 1. Trinity Solar, \$443.06 – approved.
 2. Mark Rodo, \$29.52 – approved.

A motion was made to approve both building permit refunds was made. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. LED Street Lighting – Director Russo wanted to bring this forward to the commission for future reference. In December, the future commission will be looking into the LED street light updates and he would like everyone to be proactive. Different types of funding were mentioned including road bond funds. Safety is increased while electricity rates will decrease with the new LED lights and service agreement. Director Russo mentioned that the projected savings of \$300,000.00 after purchasing the 5,200 streetlights from Eversource is almost met. Before the purchase, the line item had around \$800,000.00 and it is now down to about \$400,000.00. Switching to LED lights will continue to help the city save money. A future street light audit was discussed as far as possible appropriation for funds. More will be discussed in December when the new commission meets. A motion was made to discuss further on another agenda. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- b. September 2015 Public Works Overtime Report – Director Russo stated that mostly road bond work was conducted. Westfield Street is the last street on the list to be paved for the year, which is currently being worked on. Any driveway aprons made of concrete will be replaced with concrete and any driveway aprons made of asphalt will be replaced with asphalt. All concrete curbing will be installed throughout the newly paved city streets. Old Mill Road will be a project that will be conducted next year. Deputy Director Holden stated that the Water & Sewer Department will be conducting projects such as sewer separation and combined structures along with complete road reconstruction in the spring on Old Mill Road, Belvidere Terrace and Phedon Parkway along with some of their cross streets.
- c. September 2015 Building Permits – Director Russo stated that as of last week it was \$285,000.00, which averages at about \$90,000.00 per month. This is well above the projection for the year which was about \$570,000.00. The contractors that are in charge of the construction of the new apartments behind Middlesex Mutual applied for their building permit which consisted of a \$142,600.00 check. Another large check will be received when FedEx applies for their permit to begin construction.

OTHER:

- a. September 2015 Monthly Report – Highway Division – The commission reviewed their September 2015 monthly reports. Leaf pick up will begin in November. The new hires for truck drivers have been with the City for at least 6 months so they will be equipped for the winter time as far as training with an experienced driver on a familiar route.
- b. September 2015 Overtime Report – Parks Division – Director Russo stated that most of the Parks overtime is sports related such as the football games at Palmer Field. The baseball and soccer games will be done around the first week in November.

Director Russo stated that new lighting is being installed on the South Green. This will assist with the hearing issues during the Christmas tree lighting. During the day the lighting will have music playing from the speakers inside the post.

City Hall masonry work was discussed and it was requested that it be added to the next agenda in December.

Ice skating on Butternut Pond was discussed for this upcoming winter. It was brought up that signs for skating at your own risk should be installed. The legal department will have to get involved with the decision making process in the future.

As there was no further discussion, the Public Works & Facilities commission meeting was adjourned at 7:37 P.M.